



100th Anniversary of the United States Army Reserve

Today, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve. Authorized by Congress on April 23, 1908, the Army Reserve is a critical component of the total Army. Initially comprised of just 160 medical officers, it has grown to 195,000 strong. At its inception, the Army Reserve – our Warrior Citizens – brought civilian expertise into military service. After demonstrating their importance in World War I, the Army Reserve evolved into an essential component of the Nation's landpower – a role it still serves today.

During this era of persistent conflict, the Army Reserve is transforming. It is no longer the strategic reserve of the Cold War, but rather a key element of the Army's operational force. Since September 11, 2001, more than 188,000 Warrior Citizens have mobilized to support the Global War on Terror – with 26,000 currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and eighteen other countries. They work alongside Active and National Guard Soldiers to execute the full spectrum of missions needed to win in conflicts waged among the people. Standing behind them, are their Families, employers, and local communities whose unwavering support makes their outstanding contributions possible.

In these tumultuous times, the service of Warrior Citizens and their Families continues to reflect the very best of our Nation. An Army Reservist is truly “twice the citizen,” first serving the Nation and second serving their community. We honor their contributions and are committed to continually improving how we train, equip, resource, mobilize, and support them and their Families – thus providing the Nation with the strength it needs for the next 100 years.

Army Strong!

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army